

Joshua Fishman's name was first heard by me at the LSA Institute held in Bloomington, Indiana in the summer of 1964. Charles A. Ferguson had organized a seminar sponsored by the Social Sciences Research Council attended by well-known established scholars and by some younger ones who were to become important figures in the emerging field of Sociolinguistics (broadly defined to include the Sociology of Language). Among the scholars there were linguists and sociologists who faced some communication problems at first, but succeeded in laying out research areas which were to be developed subsequently. I had the opportunity of becoming acquainted with Fishman's name and his scholarly interests thanks to my links to the Center for Applied Linguistics and his director Charles A Ferguson whom we all called Fergie. He would keep me posted on the developments of their meetings. I was then a new PhD, partially entrusted with the organization of the Second Symposium of the Inter-American Program in Linguistics and Language Teaching (called PILEI from its initials in Spanish).

There followed several exciting years which saw the development of the new discipline to be taught at many U.S. universities and very soon the world over. The book edited by Fishman, Ferguson and Das Gupta came out followed by Fishman's two textbooks (1972) on the Sociology of Language, Up to then I hadn't met Joshua personally. The opportunity came at another LSA Institute held in Albuquerque in 1980. There I attended his class a few times and he invited me to lunch, a memorable occasion.

For many years I kept on reading his articles and books recommending them to students while I worked in describing Nahuatl and later Otomi dialects. In 1992 I dedicated a Sociolinguistics text to him and in 2001 there appeared my article on Otomí in *Can threatened languages be saved?* edited by him.

The saving of threatened languages has been one of Joshua's main interests; he has devoted a lifetime to the study and defense of minority languages being a pioneer in the field and in the effort of reversing language shift. To those of us interested in minority languages he has been and continues to be a model and an inspiration.

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